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THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2015

City wants on MD list

Port Colborne is demanding a place on the
province's list of areas of high physician need
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Proud Canucks

See photos from Canada Day
celebrations at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park
Page 3

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Hair today, gone September



MARYANNE FIRTH/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Port Colborne resident Randy Chamberlain is one of more than 210 people expected to get out the buzzers to break a Guinness World Record during Port Colborne's Terry Fox Run head shave event in September. Chamberlain jokingly takes a practice run on his facial hair recently in Port Colborne. See story on page 9.

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■ PAN AM GAMES

Niagara thrust into world spotlight

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

The nation's birthday isn't the only July event expected to evoke Canadian pride.

When the Pan Am Games reach Welland and St. Catharines July 11, it's believed patriotism will be at an all-time high.

For Bill Schenck, the only thing better than watching some of Canada's top athletes win gold on Canadian soil is watching them win in his own backyard.

The Henley commissioner has fingers crossed that medals are in the future of the national rowing team when competition gets underway at the Royal Canadian Henley Rowing Course in St. Catharines next Saturday.

Schenck got his first taste of the international stage in 1999, when the Garden City played host to the World Rowing Championships.

"It was my first opportunity to see the Canadian national team compete on home soil," he recalled, adding there was an immense amount of pride in having it happen locally.

It's an experience he's looking forward to reliving — one he hopes people understand the magnitude of.

Schenck admitted there "has been some negativity" leading up to the games, with concerns about traffic flow and commuter issues rising.

"There's a well-organized parking plan," he said, adding people shouldn't fear potential traffic.

"We've got a game plan that's going to work. Don't worry. Just get out and be a part of the event."

What people need to remember, Schenck said, is this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance "to see some of the best athletes Canada, the world, has to offer competing here."

"These events just don't happen that often."

"It's a pretty exciting opportunity to be able to host everyone and be a part of this."

For people not interested in rowing, Schenck encouraged them to instead take in another sport — canoe/kayak sprint in Welland, soccer in Hamilton or various Toronto competitions — to "get out and be a part of the experience."

"Don't miss out."

The games will leave behind

TEMPORARY CHANGES IN WELLAND

Canal Bank St. will be closed from Townline Tunnel Rd./Humberstone Rd. to Ontario Rd. until July 14 at 6 p.m.

The Port Colborne Link will be diverted during this period. Contact Welland Transit for more information.

No stopping will be permitted on Townline Tunnel Rd. between Colborne St. and the tunnel entrance.

Signal timing change at the intersection of East Main St. and Farr Rd. may result in longer than normal wait times at traffic lights.

Heavier traffic volumes are expected July 11 to 14.

Increased traffic will likely occur between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. and again from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the following roads:

Prince Charles Dr., from West Main St. to Humberstone Rd.; Hwy. 140, from Humberstone Rd. to East Main St.; Humberstone Rd. from Hwy. 140 to Prince Charles Dr.; and Main St. from Hwy. 406 to Prince Charles Dr.

a legacy — and not just in the infrastructure upgrades seen at Henley Island, Schenck said.

The rowing centre recently received \$250,000 in federal funding to revamp the entrance to the spectator grandstands, including replacement of asphalt sidewalks with cobblestone walkways and new landscaping. That money is in addition to more than \$714,000 in federal funds and \$364,000 chipped in by St. Catharines for renovations for Pan Am.

Not only has the games ensured the facility will be "kept up to world-class standards," Schenck said it has also helped to bring in a new roster of volunteers, attracted interest to the sport and secured the city a spot in history as a host venue.

It's a place in history Welland is also proud to hold, as indicated by the many events held to welcome the



MARYANNE FIRTH/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Therese Bilsborough is one of approximately 200 people who will offer their time as volunteers during the Pan Am Games events in Welland July 11 to 14.

games to town.

Crews have been working feverishly to get the course at the Welland Pan Am Flatwater Centre ready for canoe/kayak teams from across the globe.

"We're getting the course prepared, making sure it's up to international standards," Welland Recreational Canal Corp. executive director Stephen Fischer said.

"We've been at it working hard since June 15."

Final details were being completed at the course Thursday, preparing for training among visiting countries, which is expected to get underway Monday.

"The waterway is ready," Fischer said.

And so, it seems, are the people.

"I've been receiving calls every day from people asking about tickets, parking and buses," said Cassandra Magazzeni, Welland's Pan Am Games co-ordinator.

Welland's first block of tickets sold out and have yet to be replenished by Pan Am organizers Toronto2015.

Calls have also been flooding in from would-be spectators wondering if they'll be

able to sit on the east bank of the canal to watch the competitions, but Magazzeni said with fencing in place and the road closed it will not be possible.

"People are really looking forward to it. There have been a lot of questions about biking in the area. People are going to be exploring Niagara."

Magazzeni is hopeful residents will take advantage of the unique experience that will leave Welland with "an amazing venue" to host a wealth of future events, including the World Dragon Boat Championships Aug. 19 to 23.

The city's economic development manager, Dan Degazio, suspects the city will be left with more than just its state-of-the-art \$10-million facility.

"This is our investment tool for the next three to five years," he said of the Pan Am Games, which he's hopeful will be a launching pad to bring industry to Niagara.

"We're expecting it to be big, for it to be good for us for with opportunities for investment," he said.

Niagara Region, in partner-

ship with the two host cities, as well as Hamilton, is setting up networking opportunities with people who've "travelled hundreds of thousands of miles" to experience the games and show support, Degazio said.

"They're in our backyard. We need to use that to our advantage."

Degazio said potential investment begins with "that first little bit of a relationship" that can hopefully be developed with time.

That initial introduction will take place through the Americas Investment Playbook, an initiative created by the participating communities to showcase to potential investors visiting from around the globe what Hamilton and Niagara have to offer.

The project includes tours running July 14 to 23 that highlight local manufacturing, food and agriculture, digital media and information communications technology sectors.

Long-term relationships begin with good first impressions, said Paul Connor, Niagara's manager of economic research and analysis.

WELLAND PAN AM GAMES NEED-TO-KNOW INFO

Dates: July 11 to 14
Number of athletes: 120
Time: Gates open each day at 7 a.m., two hours before competition starts
Where: Welland Pan Am Flatwater Centre

The Region's teams, he added, are ready to impress.

"We want them to remember us," Connor said, adding the hope is to stay in touch with these business contacts in hopes of securing investment in the future.

People will have to "stay tuned," he said, to determine the true economic impact had by the games in town.

It has been more than a year-long process to create the playbook and help develop the itineraries, said Brian York, manager of economic development for St. Catharines.

"You have to look at this as a legacy to the community and ask 'What other people can we touch with that? What else is there to do in the city?'"

Followup calls will take place after the games to "continue the dialogue" between the communities and potential investors, he said.

"You have to try and capitalize on international events when the chance presents itself."

The community, York said, "can't look any better for the games," and he's confident that will help to draw interest.

"We're prepping for an open house for an international audience."

Degazio acknowledged there have been concerns about the costs associated with bringing the games to Welland — a figure that has yet to be solidified in total.

"But it's part of the cost of doing business," he said, adding it's sometimes required to spend money to make money.

"The games are going to pay dividends for us for a long time. People will remember this place."

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LOCAL NEWS

■ CANADA DAY

Port Colborne celebrates a 148th birthday

GREG FURMINGER
Postmedia Network

It was a great big party in H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park, eh?

It was the place to be July 1 to celebrate the nation's 148th birthday.

"It's Canada Day, and it's always a good time down here," said Matt Kodatsky of his faithful attendance at Port Colborne festivities ever since he was a boy.

Now he brings his girls, and wife Heni, a Hungarian who has called the Great White North home for the past 15 years.

"It's part of my family," she said of Canada. "My husband's Canadian and my children are Canadian."

The young family planned to take a barbecue break with

friends and at night return to the festivities, presented by the Optimist Club, for the big fireworks show.

It should have proved a great treat for another group of Hungarians.

Bettina Budahazi arrived in Port Colborne from Budapest just two weeks ago with plans to become a Canadian citizen.

"It's amazing," she said in fairly good English of the day's festivities. "The people are so friendly."

Nearby, Samantha Burnison was enjoying the afternoon with daughter Harlynn, 4, and son Cullen, who'll turn two in the fall.

"There's a lot of stuff for the kids to do," she said, "and good prices — most of it's free."

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PHOTOS BY GREG FURMINGER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Amanda Arsenault, with husband Henri, gets in the Maple Leaf spirit at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park.



Three-year-old Maya Kodatsky celebrates Canada Day with Dad Matt and the rest of the family at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park in Port Colborne.



Birds of prey are displayed to Canada Day visitors at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park in Port Colborne.



Four-year-old Harlynn Burnison amuses herself at a children's activity station at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park during Port Colborne's Canada Day celebrations.

I've been thinking about wisdom and fear

REV. FR. DAVID GRAHAM SCOTT
 St. Ignatius of Antioch Orthodox Church

It is a pleasant surprise when a columnist with whom I disagree almost all the time writes an article much of which I can affirm. Tom Harpur did so in his June 17 piece entitled "Seeking wisdom? Start your search with reverence."

I took a New Testament course from Tom Harpur when he taught at Wycliffe College. That year I was doing graduate studies at the Toronto School of Theology, so that my wife Cynthia could complete two years of high school teaching before we left for Strasbourg, France.

Tom's article noted that wisdom is not on our culture's scale of values. Wisdom "gets trampled under in a Gadarene-like rush over the precipice of obsession with information and largely meaningless tweets from the social media." The pursuit of wisdom has been nearly obliterated in a culture "entranced by technology, con-

sumerism and bottom-line thinking."

Harpur wrote that wisdom was more than the dictionary definition of "experience-plus- knowledge-plus-discernment." Wisdom "has a deeper, more spiritual dimension as well. It flows from a profound awareness of who we really are, where we have come from and what our ultimate destiny is." It comes from having an insight "of our place in the universe and hence the meaning of life."

Harpur quoted Proverbs 9:10, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." He took "fear" to mean "reverence, respect for, or awe and worship" of God. And I agree with him that the Biblical fear of God is not "the kind of emotion that numbs us with terror."

I would also consider what the fear of God means from the parallels of Hebrew poetry. Psalm 33:8 confirms Harpur's understanding: "Let all the earth fear the Lord, let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!" The fear of God is reverence and awe.

Psalm 128 starts, "Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways." Here the fear of God means obedient living in God's ways. Psalm 19 parallels the law of the Lord with the fear of the Lord, focusing God's ways on his commandments and ordinances.

Psalm 147:11 says that "the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love." Here (and in Psalm 33:18) the fear of God means hoping (and so believing in) God's steadfast love.

Proverbs 9:10 says that such fear of God is the beginning of wisdom and parallels this statement with another, "the knowledge of the Holy One is insight." Knowing God in Biblical thought means loving him and obeying him. Loving God and obeying him gives genuine insight into life's meaning. Otherwise our egocentric willfulness would distort our reason and lead us into delusion and folly, sin and death.

This brings us to the big questions of

who we are, where we have come from, and what our ultimate destiny is. The Bible's big axiom is that we are creations of God, made in his image, male and female, that is, made for complementary relationship. The consummate image of God is Jesus Christ, who is the bride-groom of the Church, his bride redeemed by his own blood.

And so we are God's creatures made in his image for a relationship of love with him and with one another. We have come from our parents but ultimately from God's design. Our ultimate destiny is bound up with God and is determined by our faith working through love (Galatians 5:6).

Such faith means obedience to God and faithfulness to one's spouse, family, church, friends and community. Our ultimate destiny at the end is either the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels or the kingdom of God prepared from the foundation of the world for faithful doers of God's commandments.

Former Chios reached scrapyard only to sink in storm

SKIP GILLHAM
 For Postmedia Network



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Chios is pictured at the Iroquois Lock in this undated Lawrence Scott photo from the collection of Brockville Museum.

After a generally productive 30-year career on the high seas, the former Greek and then Liberian freighter *Chios* was sold for scrap.

It arrived at Aliaga, Turkey, on Dec. 4, 1986, but broke loose in a storm on Dec. 26, and foundered.

Thirty years earlier, in June 1956, this ship was completed at Bremen, West Germany, as *Chios*. It was originally registered in Greece but, by the time it came through the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1965, it was flying the flag of Liberia on the stern.

The 159-metre-long-by-17.2-metre-wide freighter had five holds and five hatches and able to carry more than 15,000 tonnes of cargo.

Chios was sold and renamed *Laertis* in 1972. Registry moved back to Greece and, under this name, it was not a seaway trader. It spent another decade in service before tying up at Lefkas, Greece, on Feb. 8, 1982. With no further business, the ship remained idle until finally being sold for scrap. It was towed to the Aliaga scrapyard and then sank in a storm.

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■ HEALTH CARE

South Niagara wants on Ontario physician needs list

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Port Colborne is demanding a place on the province's list of areas of high physician need.

That's because the city's health services co-ordinator, Joanne Ferraccioli, is concerned that not making it on the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care list will hamper physician recruitment efforts.

"We don't believe that to be appropriate or equitable, especially with so many changes going on in the hospital improvement plan process," Ferraccioli said. "We want those restrictions removed."

In Niagara, only St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake were included on the list of high-need areas, released in May.

Communities included on the list will be eligible for physician recruitment incen-

tives such as an income stabilization program, and limited recruitment to family health organizations.

In an e-mail, MOH spokesperson Shannon Zimmerman said the list of communities with a high physician need was developed as part of the Ten Point Plan for Saving and Improving Service announced by Minister of Health Dr. Eric Hoskins earlier this year.

Zimmerman said areas of high physician need are communities where physician supply does not meet local demand for their services.

She said the ministry used a list of criteria including family physician to population ratios for compiling the list of underserved communities.

But Ferraccioli questions the data used by the province.

"We want to know where they got that data from, because our data shows all of

south Niagara — Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, Welland, Port Colborne, Wainfleet — the numbers are even worse for physician to population ratio," Ferraccioli said.

In her report, unanimously supported at Monday's Port Colborne council meeting, Ferraccioli pointed out that Welland and Port Colborne have 46 physicians between them, which represents 16% of total primary care physicians in Niagara. However, the population of the two communities is 20% of the total population of Niagara, "indicating that we have far less physicians per capita as compared to the rest of Niagara," she said.

And physicians working in south Niagara are on average much closer to retirement than physicians working in other communities.

Zimmerman said the province will review its list of high

need communities on a quarterly basis, and "all communities will be reconsidered when those reviews take place."

Port Colborne Mayor John Maloney said it's essential that the ministry "reverse its decision, and include Welland, Port Colborne and Wainfleet as areas of high need."

"We have to let the Ministry of Health know that we're out here and we're not happy," Maloney said.

In addition to demanding inclusion in the list of high need communities, Ferraccioli's report also recommended a collaboration between Port Colborne, Welland and Wainfleet to develop a clinical services plan to address and enhance primary medical care in the area; and support of Welland's efforts to ensure there is no loss of emergency care services at Welland hospital while ensuring no loss

of urgent care services in Port Colborne.

"We will certainly support Welland with respect to ensuring that there's no further loss of emergency care service," Maloney said.

"We want to work with Welland and Wainfleet, but it's essential that we retain urgent care services delivered out of the Port Colborne site."

Welland Mayor Frank Campion said he's "extremely pleased" with the support from Port Colborne.

"We're really looking at it from a south Niagara perspective," Campion said.

He said he met with Maloney and Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs about a month ago to discuss health care.

"We're taking it to the next step. ... We really want to have a united front from south Niagara and while we've agreed on things in the past, I think we're

officially coming together as a unit that moves forward representing south Niagara and ensuring that the residents of south Niagara have access to quality, equitable health care," Campion said.

Maloney said he and regional Coun. David Barrick met with associate health minister Dipika Damerla last week to discuss concerns about the future of both Port Colborne and Welland hospitals.

"We've certainly planted a seed in this regard and we hope that it will bear fruit in the years to come," he said. "A position has been taken by the province and we have to show them that they're wrong. It's far from over."

Though contacted, Niagara Health System representatives did not provide comment on this story.

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LOCAL NEWS

PROGRAMMING

Port museum launches summer camp

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

It's going to be just the right mixture of young and old.

That's the recipe Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum has cooked up for its first-ever summer camp program.

"We've been wanting to do this for a couple years now," creative kids camp assistant Nicole Johnston said, adding it was a recently-received grant that made the pilot project possible.

The camp, which runs Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., is open to children ages seven to 11.

Each week will have differ-

CAMP DATES AND THEMES

Marine exploration: July 14 to 16, Aug. 11 to 13

Mini curators/archeology: July 21 to 23, Aug. 18 to 20

Pioneer life: July 28 to 30

ent activities, games and crafts associated with a different theme, including pioneer life, marine exploration and archeology.

Children will also complete one large craft to take home at the end of each week.

"We're trying to keep it as fun as possible, while also making sure kids come away know-

ing more about pioneer life in the area, marine activity and behind the scenes at the museum," Johnston said.

If all goes well, the hope is to turn the camp into an annual occurrence, she added.

Campers must pre-register by the Friday before they plan to attend.

Registration packages are available at the museum, 280 King St.

Cost is \$100 a week. Lunch is not provided.

For more information, e-mail educationprogrammer@port-colborne.ca or call 905-834-7604.

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RECREATION

No plans to allow backyard campfires in Port Colborne

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

While a growing number of Niagara communities have established policies to allow backyard campfires, Port Colborne residents will have to continue to travel elsewhere to sing *Kumbaya*.

The City of Niagara Falls is developing an amendment to its open air burning bylaw to allow campfires to be permitted in the municipality, although residents will need to purchase a \$20 annual permit from the fire prevention office and abide by a number of conditions, such as when, where and how recreational fires will be allowed.

Welland amended its bylaws in 2011 to permit backyard fires with several restrictions, while Pelham has allowed backyard campfires since 2003, although property owners there require permission from the fire chief before they set one ablaze.

Wainfleet, too, allows backyard campfires, with restrictions.

But Port Colborne Mayor John Maloney said his city has no plans of following suit at this time. He said the issue has not come up for discussion at city hall recently.

Port Colborne last reviewed its 1984 open air burning bylaw in 2007 and chose to uphold its complaint-driven

ban on backyard fires. That bylaw includes a maximum penalty of fines up to \$2,000 and up to one year in jail for violators.

Maloney said the ban on backyard campfires is "to avoid any unfortunate mishaps."

"Sometimes when there are campfires in the community, the smoke may be bothersome to the neighbours," he said.

It can also pose a risk, if people build campfires too close to buildings, whether it's their home or garage or any potentially flammable structure.

"Sometimes people are not that careful," he said. "You can't be too careful when you're dealing with fires."

He said backyard campfires are also banned in many rural communities because of dry conditions.

"People have to respect how quickly a fire can spread," Maloney said.

While Port Colborne's policy has left some residents "very unhappy," he said, "it's for their protection that these regulations were put forward, and certainly our fire chief is very adamant about this aspect of fire prevention within the community."

But Welland has had no problems with campfires since amending its bylaws to allow them.

"I think it was a good idea," said Mike Agnew, director of fire prevention for Welland Fire and Emergency Services.

"The fire code is specific about open air burning. When you create a bylaw, you can put some restrictions on it," he said.

In Welland those restrictions include the fire must be in the backyard, at least three metres from the property line and any combustible material; fires are only permitted between 4 p.m. and 11 p.m.; a responsible adult must supervise the fire, the fire must be completely contained within an acceptable metal, masonry or ceramic device that includes fine screening, and fires must be no larger than 66 centimetre in size.

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Boutique offers fashion treasure hunt

Diana Downie gets a rush of adrenaline each time she finds a hidden treasure.

It could be a stylish new pair of pumps, a glittery piece to add to her jewelry collection or that missing piece of furniture needed to make a room complete.

It's a feeling she hopes others get when they enter her new boutique, at 47 East Main St. in Welland.

Redefined Design offers new and gently used clothing, accessories, decor and furniture.

"I hand-pick every single piece myself," Downie said, adding the store does not accept donations or offer consignment.

"I like things that are a little different, not just off the rack. I like to think if it will capture my attention, it will capture someone else's."

The 56-year-old recently moved to Welland from Dunnville, alongside husband Brian Steel, to pursue her dream of opening her own business.

"We threw caution to the wind," she said, adding it's a

career move she's long wanted to make.

Downie still works full-time for Canada Post, which has meant long hours for the mother of two, who spends all her extra time at the shop or searching for inventory.

"You do what you've got to do," she said, adding she hopes to retire from her job to run the store, dubbed her "happy place," in the near future.

The avid motorcyclist does a lot of travelling and always has her eyes peeled, no matter where she is, for items to add to the store.

"I'm in it for the hunt," she said with a laugh.

"I love having to look in every nook and cranny for what I want, and I love that I can do that for people here."

A strong believer in giving back to the community, Downie is accepting non-perishable food donations for the Hope Centre until the end of the week in exchange for a 10% discount.

For more information, visit the Redefined Design Facebook page.

BIA board opens office
Port Colborne's downtown

business improvement area board is taking extra steps to connect with the community.

The volunteer-run group has opened an office at 55 Clarence St., within the Niagara Business Centre.

The office was the suggestion of a BIA member who felt the group needed to have more presence on the street, board president Betty Konc said.

"No one ever knew where to go when they wanted information," she said, adding this will provide a one-stop shop for people looking to learn more about downtown, local businesses and the initiatives hosted by the BIA.

While Konc admitted the BIA had to "juggle the budget" to secure the storefront and its part-time staff member, she believes it was necessary to help bring more traffic downtown.

"We're going to give it a try for the next six months and see how it goes."

Local businessman Fred Davies offered the office space for a low cost, Konc said, which helped to make the pilot project possible.

BIA administrator Andrea



MARYANNE FIRTH/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Diana Downie has opened a new boutique, Redefined Design, in downtown Welland. She is pictured in the store, which sells gently used clothing, furniture and decor.

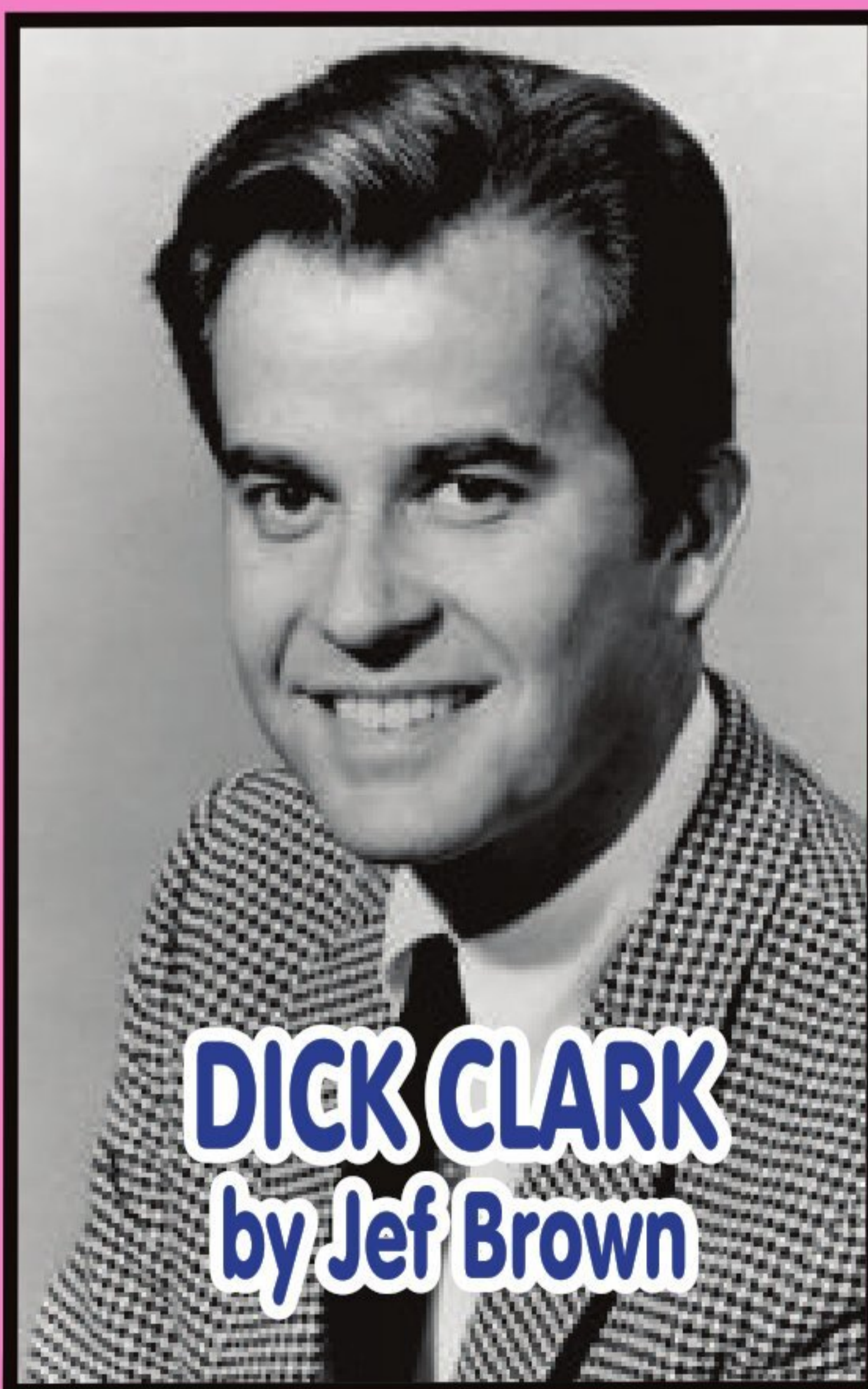
Boitor, who also works as a tour operator, will be charged with the task of drawing more people downtown, as well as providing key information about area businesses and events, Konc said.

The office is open Monday,

Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Tribune's Biz Buzz column appears every Wednesday. If you have a business tip, send it to maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca or call 905-684-7251, ext. 1144.

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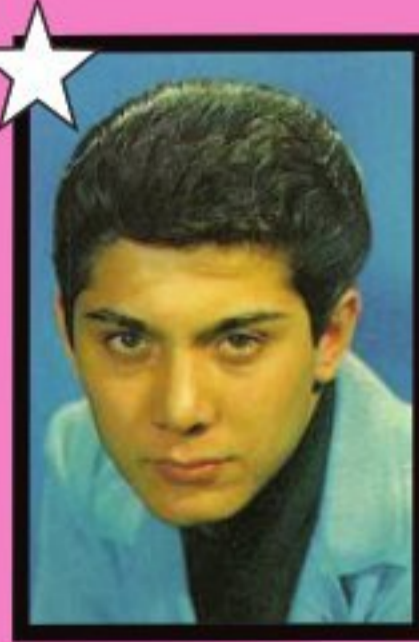
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■ **HYDRO ELECTRICITY:** Nikola Tesla Day is Friday

Prolific inventor to be honoured

ALISON LANGLEY
Postmedia Network

As a young boy, Nikola Tesla saw an image of the Horseshoe Falls in a travel book and told his uncle he wanted to put a wheel under the falls to harness the power of the moving water.

A bronze statue of the brilliant inventor has stood guard at the same point where that photograph was taken since 2006.

The monument shows Tesla in a long overcoat, carrying a top hat in his left hand. In his right hand, he's carrying a cane, depicting the moment he conceived of alternating current by drawing diagrams on the ground.

He's standing atop an AC motor, one of the 700 inventions he patented.

Tesla's most outstanding feat was harnessing the power of Niagara Falls for long distance transmission of electricity.

His polyphase system of electrical current was first used in 1896 on the U.S. side of the Niagara River.

In 1905, the same system was used at the Sir Adam Beck generating station in Queenston.

"That's where electrification of the whole world started," said Nemanja Jevremovic, of Kitchener.

Tesla's contributions will be



MIKE DIBATTISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Boris Zivkovic and Nemanja Jevremovic at the monument of Nikola Tesla near the brink of the Horseshoe Falls in Niagara Falls Friday. They will be part of a ceremony at the monument to mark Nikola Tesla Day on July 10.

honoured Friday with a ceremony at the monument to mark Nikola Tesla Day.

"It's Tesla's birthday and we're celebrating that and we're commemorating his achievements in Niagara Falls," Jevremovic said.

Organized by the Nikola Tesla School in Niagara Falls, the event will be held at the monument starting at 5 p.m.

The consul general for Serbia as well as the monument's artist, Hamilton's Les Drysdale, will speak at the ceremony.

School principal Boris Zivkovic said staff and students meet at the monument every July 10 to commemorate the birthday

of the prolific inventor, electro-technician and physicist.

The statue was commissioned by Saint George Serbian Church in Niagara Falls. Donors included the Serbian National Shield Society of Canada and the Republic of Serbia.

The motor on the monument is similar to the "Teslatron" statue in Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort's entrance, which also pays homage to the inventor.

Along with the monument in Niagara Falls, there is a bronze statue of Tesla on Goat Island.

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Twitter: @nfallslangley

■ **POLICING**

Mental health workers on patrol

GRANT LAFLECHE
Postmedia Network

To hear Lindsay Galipeau talk about it, riding shotgun with a police officer three nights a week is just another day at the office.

True she has to wear a bullet-proof vest. And she had to take use of force training, which included what to do should her police partner be incapacitated during a call.

But the mental health and addictions worker with the Canadian Mental Health Association isn't focused on the potential dangers. The possibility of helping those in need eclipses any other consideration.

"Having the ability to go out there and help people in crisis and being a person who wants everyone to live as fulfilling and healthy a life as they can, is what really makes this exciting for me," said Galipeau.

On a recent Thursday night she rode with Niagara Regional Police Acting Sgt. Dave Bozza on the first shift partnering an officer in St. Catharines with a mental health worker. Several of her colleagues joined other officers on a rotation, ensuring at least one mental health worker is on duty each night with police.

The project is a partnership between the police, local hospitals and the CMHA, said NRP Chief Jeff McGuire. The mental health worker is paid by the province.

McGuire said he had been anxious to get the project up and running because of the success seen in other jurisdictions, including Hamilton.

When police encounter someone suffering from a mental health issue, their

options are fairly limited, he said. Typically, the person is taken into custody and either brought to a hospital — where officers can wait for hours while the person is checked in at an emergency room — or placed them in a jail cell.

"And that is often not the right place for them," McGuire said.

Having a mental health worker working beside an officer provides more options, he said.

In Hamilton, it resulted in an 85% reduction in the time officers spend waiting at a hospital, and a 40% reduction in the number of people brought by police to a hospital, McGuire said.

Galipeau said when she and Bozza are dispatched to a call, she will do an on-site mental health screening of the person in question. Among other factors she will look at the person's appearance — are they disheveled or dressed appropriately for the weather — if they are suffering from any delusions or hallucinations or if they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Based on her recommendation, Bozza may take the person to an appropriate mental health organization or shelter. There is some wait time at these organizations, Galipeau said, but it is significantly shorter than at a hospital.

McGuire said mental health workers will be riding with officers in St. Catharines and Thorold from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m., seven days a week. Dispatchers will know which car has a mental health worker in it, and will send that car to the appropriate calls.

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■ **TERRY FOX RUN:** Close to 300 people expected to simultaneously shave heads

Port buzzing about record attempt

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

It has been a long while since Randy Chamberlain had a date with the buzzers.

His flowing locks survived months of cancer treatments, which the Port Colborne resident recently completed, and his moustache has been firmly planted on his face since 1978.

But all that will change Sunday, Sept. 20, when Chamberlain will offer up his mane to help battle the disease that continues to claim the lives of so many.

When the brave 62-year-old chops off his tresses — and his facial hair — in support of cancer research at Port Colborne's annual Terry Fox Run head shaving event, he will not be alone.

In fact, he's expected to be joined by more than 267 others who also believe bald is beautiful.

An attempt will be made to break the Guinness World Record for the most people simultaneously shaving their heads.

The record was previously set in Port Colborne in 2010 with 57 participants. It has since been broken a handful of times and sits at 267.

Chamberlain participated in the first record-breaking event five years ago, long before receiving his cancer

diagnosis.

He's excited to return to show his support for the cause alongside sons Corey, 25, and Casey, 23, who also participated in the 2010 event.

While he's excited for the day, Chamberlain admitted "this time around, it feels a bit different."

He said having his sons by his side, as well as hundreds of strangers committed to the same cause, has taken on a new meaning.

Chamberlain called it "tremendously freeing" to take control and shave your own head.

"It's also a huge support for anyone going through chemo who has lost their hair."

Nancy Salvage knows all too well the freedom that comes with losing your locks. The event organizer has participated in the head shave annually since its inception nine years ago.

"I will never regret it," she said of the yearly haircut she receives each September.

For people teetering on the edge, unsure of whether to make the hairdo leap, Salvage recommends "looking at the big picture" and the difference once haircut can make in support cancer research.

"Ask yourself if shaving

PORT COLBORNE TERRY FOX RUN AND HEAD SHAVE

What: Attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the most people simultaneously shaving their heads, followed by the city's annual Terry Fox Run. When: Saturday, Sept. 20. Head shave at 1 p.m., run and walk at 2 p.m.

Where: Port Colborne High School, 211 Elgin St.

Why: To raise money for cancer research through the Terry Fox Foundation.

For more information, visit the Terry Fox Run 2015 — Port Colborne Facebook page.

your head in 40 years will matter. It's such a temporary thing, but it's such a big thing," she said.

"Be happy that you can do it out of choice."

There is no cost to register for the head shaving event, but those participating are asked to collect pledges before the brave act. To start an online fundraising page,

visit www.terryfoxrun.org.

Salvage encouraged people to register in advance to ensure the numbers needed to break the record are in place prior to the event.

"It would be nice to get a buffer," she said, adding she hopes the number of participants will well exceed the amount needed.

Hair being buzzed must



MARYANNE FIRTH/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Port Colborne resident Randy Chamberlain is one of more than 210 people expected to get out the buzzers to break a Guinness World Record during Port Colborne's Terry Fox Run head shave event in September.

be at least one inch long to count toward the record. call 905-835-0442.

To register, e-mail nancy.salvage@sympatico.ca or

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■ BAD IDEAS

Gun-shaped phone protector could leave you dead

GREG FURMINGER
Postmedia Network

This case to protect your cellphone could leave you dead.

At the least, it could summon an armed response from police.

In recent days across North America, images of the hard phone cases that includes what either resembles the butt of a semi-automatic pistol or a revolver have been making the rounds on Facebook and

Twitter, and arresting headlines have ensued.

"We are aware they are being sold online," said Const. David Mander, a spokesman for Niagara Regional Police, after being e-mailed images of the product.

One picture showed the butt of the gun protruding from a back pocket, implying it was a firearm.

Mander said there have been no reports of any gun-shaped cellphone cases being sold or seen in the

Niagara region.

"If anyone possesses one, they should use caution, if seen by the public it may cause alarm and trigger a police response," he said.

One gun-shaped item was selling for \$10.99 US Saturday on eBay — to which people have demanded similar products be pulled from its listings.

Based on reader feedback supplied to the Tribune's Facebook page, where the newspaper posted pictures of the novelty item, the con-

sensus seemed to be: don't buy this product.

The following is a selection of comments left by readers:

"Using something like this is just asking for trouble." — Kimberly Anne Robillard

"This is going to get someone killed." — Christopher Eric Lagesten

"Wonder how many people are going to get shot using this? What a thoughtless idea." — Debbie Marko

"If people are being shot for toy coloured guns then

what's going to happen with this?" — Meagan Lecompte

"What is this world coming to? Why would someone come up with such a stupid idea?" — Pat Konig

"With all the issues surrounding national security and mass shootings, I'm really surprised this would even be legal, not to mention that it's not user-friendly at all. Ridiculous!" — Rob Janzen

"Not only will it cause confusion with police but it could cause innumera-

ble issues while being out in public places ... The company that made these need a serious kick in the head ... this was one idea that should have been tossed into the 'stupid idea' pile." — Tamara Treppiedi

"The cops don't have time to see its your phone and not a gun. Bang, you're dead." — Rob Wells

"I want one!" — Aaron Robins Buttigieg

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■ MUNICIPAL FINANCE

Region staff directed to freeze taxes

ROB HOULE

Postmedia Network

Niagara Region staffers have their marching orders — work towards a budget that will see no hike in property taxes.

Shortly after hearing from two businessmen who added their voices to a call for a 0% tax hike, regional councillors reiterated a stance they took at last week's budget review com-

mittee of the whole meeting and directed staff to aim for no hike in the Region's portion of the property tax bill.

"This is guidance," regional Chair Alan Caslin said following last Thursday night's council meeting, "so I can't predict what staff will come back with in the fall, but in terms of what we accept, it would be difficult to promote anything except zero."

Earlier, businessmen Tim Parker, the general manager of Ripley's Niagara, and Kevin Grealy, the owner of Clockwork Systems, echoed the calls from other business leaders who called on the region to take a stand against spending and rising property taxes, during a roundtable discussion with Caslin and budget chair David Barrick of Port Colborne and audit committee chair

Tony Quirk early the previous week.

"The last five years have been very difficult when it comes to our business model and our plan due to the fact we have rising costs all over the map," said Parker, who noted he was representing the Jim Pattison Group, which in addition to owning Ripley's Believe it or Not on Clifton Hill in Niagara Falls, also owns Great Wolf Lodge. While he cited the increased cost of salaries because of hikes in minimum wage and "out of control" hydro rates as stressors on business, he said he was before council because it could affect change.

"Next year's budget at a 0% increase would be the absolute best thing for us — it would be one more lifeline to get us through for another year," Parker said.

Parker's call for a 0% budget increase could result in an actual reduction in property taxes should a forecast 1% hike in assessment be attained.

Grealy said as a small business owner from Niagara Falls, he struggles against mounting taxes.

"All I can do is plead with you, when you look at the next budget, to seriously think about the small business owners and the strength that they bring to the region," Grealy said to councillors. "We've heard a lot in the past several months, with the new group here, about being business friendly and wanting to generate business opportunities in Niagara, and the only way you're going to do that is to help us meet then financial crunches that we have to meet every day."

While supportive of a 0% tax hike, Lincoln Coun. Bill Hodgson said to achieve it will require much work.

"Zero is very difficult, when you consider the responsibilities we have," Hodgson said. "At a time when we are talking about the pursuit of zero, we will be scouring for any type of saving. We'll have to find a great deal of savings to be able to absorb the inflationary pressures that we're going to experience."

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MUSIC

American Bandstand to be revisited at Roselawn

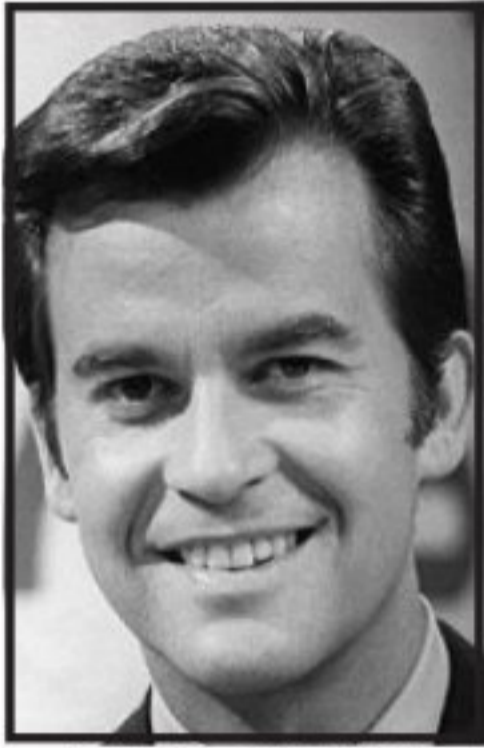
Postmedia Network

Fans of Dick Clark and oldies rock won't want to miss American Bandstand Revisited.

The "rockin' 1950s dance party" comes to Port Colborne's Roselawn Theatre in Port Colborne for two shows this month: Saturday, July 25, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, July 26, at 3 p.m.

The fun-filled musical theatre presentation celebrates the long-running TV program launched with host Clark in 1956. Clark will be portrayed by 91.7 Giant FM DJ Jef Brown.

American Bandstand Revisited



DICK CLARK

includes live musical performances highlighted by tributes to Ricky Nelson, Del Shannon, Connie Francis, Dion, Paul Anka and Bobby Darin.

Audiences can expect to hear such songs as Hello Mary Lou, Runaway, Lipstick on Your Collar, Runaround Sue, Diana and Splish Splash.

The show is audience-interactive and features a "Rate the Record" segment to add to the fun.

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WINGS OF THE WORLD



GREG FURMINGER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Martin Vaillancourt is co-owner of the open-air, walk-through aviary Wings of the World, which had a soft opening last weekend at the Niagara Regional Exhibition grounds in Welland.

Exotic birds find a home in Welland

GREG FURMINGER
Postmedia Network

Martin Vaillancourt's life has gone to the birds — and he couldn't be any happier.

"I've had birds my whole life," says the 42-year-old father, recalling how he first started breeding the feathered creatures at the age of seven.

"My bedroom as a kid was a stack of cages.

A pursuit that began with zebra finches grew to an assortment of species by the time he was 15 growing up in Quebec City.

Now he's sharing their beauty with anyone looking for a relaxing moment in the confines of his open-air, walk-through aviary, Wings of the World Bird Park Niagara.

Nestled on the Niagara Regional Exhibition fairgrounds in Welland, the attraction had its soft opening on the weekend.

Vaillancourt, a St. Ann's resident who teaches science and physical education at a French-Catholic high school in Hamilton, is partnered in the aviary with Mike Gagnon, a native of Bas-Saint-Laurent, Que., who now calls Welland home.

The two became friends about 20 years ago over their love of exotic birds.

Friends of both suggested they share their collections with a wider audience.

And so, Wings of the World was hatched.

The aviary has 32 varieties of exotic birds, including more than a dozen tropical ducks.

"They're pretty unique. They're not something you find in your local pet store," Vaillancourt says of the larger assortment as a peacock squawks loudly in the distance.

"You can see them on TV, you can Google them up, but to see them like this ..." he says, trailing off with a sense of pride in his accomplishment.

The exotic birds are housed in a 21-metre-long, six-metre-high outdoor enclosure consisting of a large net covering, held up by several posts. Inside is a small pond and forest for the birds to perch.

Visitors — they better have their cameras with them — can enter the enclosure and follow a footpath to different areas.

The birds can be easily seen milling about a pond, or more furtively sipping from water under a canopy of trees.

Visitors to 1,100 Niagara St. should look high and low and peer through the greenery — Vaillancourt says it needs thinning — to search for the aviary's inhabitants.

Not just an array of colours, the aviary also boasts an assortment of sounds — some of the loudest coming from southern lapwings that on Sunday seemed to be taunting a pair of statuesque crown cranes, one of which is featured on the aviary logo.

Vaillancourt says he has always been attracted to birds for being "peaceful, beautiful."

"For anyone seeking thrills like a roller-coaster, this is not the place," he says.

Park hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., May through October.

Tickets are \$6 for children aged three to 12, \$12 for adults aged 13 to 61, and \$8 for seniors 62 and older. Children three and under are admitted free.

For more information, visit www.wings-of-the-world.com.

greg.furminger@sunmedia.ca
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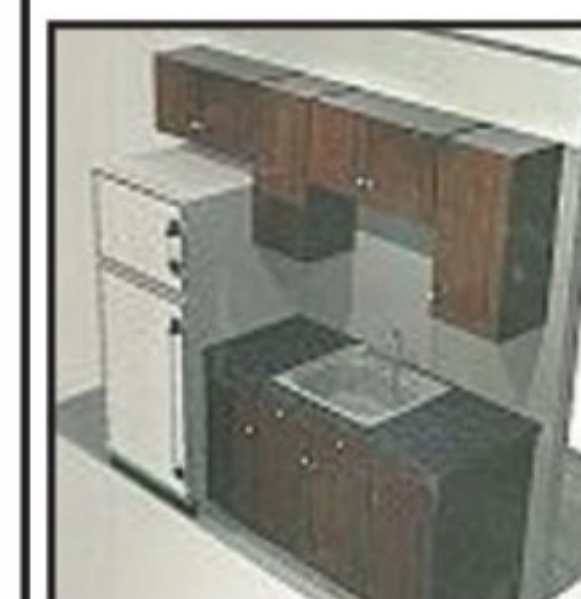
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LOCAL NEWS

■ **MUSIC:** Welland/Port Colborne polka and rock band still going strong after all these years

It was the summer of '69 when Nu-Tones debuted

FRANKI IKEMAN
Postmedia Network

It's been a wild ride for a Welland/Port Colborne-based band, and its members aren't letting up any time soon.

The polka/rock band the Nu-Tones is looking back on a crazy 46 years this July, and its members are celebrating their ongoing music and friendship.

The six-man band has had several member-swaps, many different singers, but the core of the band has been together for the majority of the 46 years, led by Tony Habjan.

These days, the band comprises Bryon Pull, Tony Habjan, Barry Stickles, Bill Ducharme, Frank Habjan and Erwin Green.

Tony Habjan recalls the first practice. It was July 19, 1969.

The guys were in high school when they first started playing together — and they were getting a lot of gigs, keeping them busy three to four nights a week.

"Back in the heyday we were making good money," says guitarist Bryon Pull. "I was probably the richest kid in high school."

The band made a name for itself playing many different venues, events and weddings. From Ukrainian new year celebrations to opening for Kim



FRANKI IKEMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

From left: Bryon Pull, Tony Habjan, Barry Stickles, Bill Ducharme, Frank Habjan and Erwin Green make up The Nu-Tones.

Mitchell at Oktoberfest in Kitchener-Waterloo, the band has made the rounds throughout much of southern Ontario over the years.

The band doesn't play nearly as much as these days — usually taking on seven to eight gigs a year — but the guys still love to entertain

crowds and play the music they love for people to listen and dance to.

Well, most of them love the music.

Saxophonist Barry Stickles remembers the first time he played with the guys, coming from a background of mostly rock music.

"I hated it," Stickles says, "It was awful, just awful."

His bandmates crack up as Stickles explains his disdain for polka music, a feeling that hasn't changed over the past 40 years.

"All these mouldy oldies Elvis songs and all these country songs, you've gotta

like music, not THE music," he says.

The group of jokesters continues to laugh and poke fun at each other, while reminiscing on the adventures they had as a young band playing regular shows.

Stickles says it was that spirit that made him want to play

with this band, despite his dislike of the music it played.

"I went home after my first night playing with these guys and I was laying at home with my parents and I told them these two guys are nuts, you should see them. I couldn't stay away. These guys were making me laugh all the time," he recalls.

These days, the guys are mostly working full-time jobs in various fields, but they still come together a handful of times each year to perform. With no practices or rehearsals and no music sheets, the band still gets up at shows and plays music by ear.

"That's one thing I was really impressed with when I started with the band," says vocalist Bill Ducharme, the "newest" addition to the Nu-tones, having joined in 1993. He says it blew him away how he could start singing and the band would be able to pick it up and follow along within just a few bars.

The band agrees that a love for music, and a loyalty to the group, is what has kept them together all these years.

The Nu-Tones will be playing at Sausage Festival at Lipa Park in Pelham on July 5.

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Case Examples: (1) A man in his 60s suffered pain all over, weak, tremor, rigid, depressed and was taking pills for Parkinson’s disease for years. He needed assistance for every step taken. After a number of treatments, he felt much relief from the pain, tremor, gained strength and became more flexible. He was able to walk independently and less depressed.

(2) A man in his 70s had pain in his knee for years with every step taken. On top of that, he had pain in his back and rib cage area to the point where he could hardly sleep or get out of bed. He was told to get his knee replaced, but wanted to keep his own knee. With a few treatments, to his surprise, the pain was nearly gone. He could sleep through the night, freely gets out of bed and enjoys walking.

(3) A woman suffered pain all over. She wore a collar to support her neck and her arm could not reach behind her back. She could hardly hold a glass of water without dropping it. She was given Epidural shots every few weeks, which did not last and made her feel sick. With a number of treatments, the pain, numbness, tingling and weakness largely reduced. Her arm could freely reach her back and hold a glass of water firmly. She no longer wears a collar, can now walk and has gained a lot of energy.



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